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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

COUNTRY France

DATE:

SUBJECT Loss of Strength of Communist Party in Southern France

INFO. Current

DIST. 8 October, 1947

25X1X

PAGES

ORIGIN

SUPPLEMENT

25X1X

1. M. Simon, former regional head of the PFI, and now Communist municipal counselor in Marseille, believes that the Communists will experience a sharp reversal in October's municipal elections. Communist Party authorities in the Bouches-du-Rhone Department have expressed the same opinion.
2. Reasons advanced for the Communist loss of strength are the following:
 - a) Unfavorable public reaction to the strikes. This attitude is held by many workers who have participated in the strikes with great reluctance. In Marseille, dock workers and sailors have indicated resentment against Communist and CGT abuses.
 - b) The record of the Communist Party in the municipal government of Marseille has been poor, particularly in the fields of finance and reconstruction. It has been alleged by Party authorities that the Socialists have done everything in their power to prevent the municipal policy of the Communists from succeeding. In particular, they emphasize sabotage on the part of Socialist employees in the municipal government, who, in the course of their work, have delayed the execution of orders and thus compromised the ends envisaged by the Communists.
3. On the other hand, the RFP is reportedly gaining strength. In Toulon it has more than seven thousand members, although in early May there were only two thousand members in the Gaullist Union. In large part, the members come from the Socialist Party. This increase is ascribed to disgust with the policies and methods of the Communists, rather than to the appeal of General de Gaulle personally or of his ideas.
4. In Marseille, it has been reliably reported that La France, a newspaper directed by the PFI Deputy Bergasse, will make common cause with the RFP and present the same election list.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 15 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

Document No. 003

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TO CHANGE in Class. ☐

DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG 77/1783

Date: 18 Apr 78 By: 018

Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001000010003-0

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